

Capitalize on Genotyping

Capturing genotypes will help accelerate genetic change.



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Spring work is in full mode, and I'm sure everyone is busy with a variety of jobs as it relates to your farm or ranch.

A couple of articles ago, I wrote about the value of the Gold TPR (Total Performance Records™) program. I have received several phone calls and emails since the article about folks wanting to do a better job of measuring and recording data as well as getting their inventories billed in a timelier fashion.

Other than getting the inventory billed on time, which needs to happen before the surcharge deadline (March 1-spring and Sept. 1-fall), the only other time-sensitive deadline is getting all of the weight traits, scrotal measuring and ultrasounding done before Jan. 1 of the recognition year. This is because the system allows a two-year window for compliance, meaning the 2020 recognition year will be based on the 2018 calf crop.

Platinum TPR

I'm pleased to announce that during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors' spring meeting, the Board passed a motion to add a "Platinum" level to our Whole Herd TPR recognition program.

The Platinum TPR Breeder will be the highest level of achievement when it comes to complete calf crop reporting. In order to achieve the Platinum level, breeders will need to meet all of the requirements of Gold TPR Breeder status but also must genotype 85% of the calves with a weaning weight submitted.

The time requirement to do this will fall under the same two-year compliancy rule, where the results of the genotype will need to be completed by Jan. 1 of the recognition year. As a result, the first award winners of this prestigious and progressive award will be recognized

in the spring of 2020 and will be based on the 2018 calf crop.

Year 2020 may seem like a long way down the road, especially after a winter and spring that many of you have endured, but it will be here before we know it. I can't help thinking how much more demand and market share Hereford will have gained by this time. It's quite exciting to keep building this momentum and progressing in terms of breed improvement.

Capturing these complete and important genotypes will not only help you maximize accuracy and selection intensity of breeding programs, but it will also allow you to shorten generation interval, which in return will accelerate genetic change.

Early adopters of genomic testing have been able to capitalize the most when it comes to accelerating genetic change, and it is time the Association properly recognizes these breeders for their efforts. With that said, the opportunity is in front of you to leverage the AHA's genetic tools and resources to your advantage going forward. I'm looking forward to congratulating the first recipients of the Platinum TPR program as well as growing and strengthening all of our TPR programs.

Beef Improvement Federation

I would like to invite you to attend the 2018 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting and Research Symposium. Registration is now open for this year's event, themed 50th Anniversary in the Rockies, June 20-23 at the Embassy Suites Convention Center Hotel in Loveland, Colo.

The early registration deadline is May 31. Attendees can save \$80 by preregistering. Online registration is available at beefimprovement.org. **HW**